

ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

VOL. V. WASHINGTON, D. C., FEBRUARY 7, 1890. No. 6.

[Published at the Marine-Hospital Bureau in accordance with act of Congress of April 29, 1878.]

UNITED STATES.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

Influenza and allied diseases.

NOTICE.—Health officers are particularly requested to send full statements of the reigning epidemic. A collective statement of its symptomatology, with dates of first and last cases, will be made at the close. There is much controversy in regard to the diagnosis, which might be definitively settled by full reports from all observers.

CHICAGO, ILL.—Week ended February 1. Acute lung diseases still prevail.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.—Week ended January 25. Twenty-three deaths from influenza, 136 from inflammation of lungs, 14 from bronchitis, and 88 from phthisis pulmonalis.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—Week ended February 1. Sixty-six deaths from pneumonia, 14 from bronchitis, and 55 from phthisis pulmonalis.

CINCINNATI, OHIO.—Week ended February 1. Twenty-five deaths from pneumonia, 6 from bronchitis, and 29 from phthisis pulmonalis.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—Week ended February 1. Two death from influenza, 3 from pneumonia, 5 from bronchitis, 7 from influenza with pneumonia, and 3 from influenza complicated with other diseases.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—Week ended February 1. Influenza is decreasing.

WILMINGTON, DEL.—Week ended February 1. The prevailing diseases were influenza, pneumonia, and phthisis pulmonalis.

MANCHESTER, N. H.—Week ended February 1. In a total of 18 deaths most of them were caused by diseases of the respiratory organs.

YONKERS, N. Y.—Week ended January 31. Seven deaths reported, including 5 from acute diseases of the respiratory organs and phthisis pulmonalis.

KEOKUK, IOWA.—Week ended February 1. Influenza rapidly subsiding.

MANCHESTER, N. H.—Week ended February 1. Statistics gathered by the board of health show that in a population of 13,823 persons employed in some of the principal mills, shops, and other establishments

of the city 4,969 have within the past month been absent from work for a longer or shorter time on the plea of sickness. This indicates that fully one-third of the whole population of the city has suffered from the grippe. Information from the schools, both public and parochial, leads to a similar conclusion.

ROCKLAND, ME.—January 30, 1890. The acting assistant surgeon Marine-Hospital Service, says: "Epidemic influenza made its appearance in this port during the early part of the present month. The first cases brought to my notice were upon the United States revenue-steamer *Dallas*, January 2. There have been since the above date at least 500 cases of the disease in this city, but in all of this number I have not known of any deaths attributable directly or indirectly to this cause."

SAN DIEGO, CAL.—The acting assistant surgeon Marine-Hospital Service, says, under date of January 22, that "a modified type of the influenza has reached this port. * * * The most notable symptoms are the frontal headache, coryza, soreness of eyeballs and muscles, together with a feeling of great depression and languor."

Yellow Fever.

KEY WEST, FLA.—Dr. J. L. Posey, United States sanitary inspector, reports, under date of January 27, another case of yellow fever in that city in the person of Mrs. Taylor Lee, wife of Professor Lee, who died recently under "suspicious circumstances."

Cholera.

The New York *Maritime Register* of January 29 reports that the bark *Heribea*, Vilach, master, is on her way from Batoum, Russia, to New York. Batoum is on the western extremity of the Black Sea, near the Persian frontier and districts infected with cholera.

Legal proceedings regarding a leper at St. Louis, Mo.

In reply to inquiries from this Bureau relative to reports of a case of leprosy in St. Louis, Mo., the following communications have been received:

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH OF MISSOURI,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
St. Louis, December 20, 1889.

DEAR SIR: In reply to yours of 16th instant, making inquiry respecting the leper Brennan, now confined at the city quarantine hospital, and who was recently produced in court by the health commissioner on a writ of habeas corpus sworn to by a relative who denies that he is

affected with leprosy, I beg to submit the following statement regarding the case kindly furnished by Dr. Walter L. Blickhahn, clerk to the health commissioner and board of health of this city :

“Brennan was seen by Dr. J. L. Babcock, then of this city, on April 20, 1888, the doctor diagnosing leprosy. The history shows that the patient himself first noticed a breaking out on his face in March, 1881; he seems to have had erysipelas at the time; the erysipelas disappeared leaving some skin trouble which was not recognized as lepra. Coincidentally he had pains in his feet. From 1866 to 1879 he lived in New Orleans more particularly; there he was sick with yellow fever, swamp fever, gonorrhœa of three weeks duration. He was reported to the health department here June 3, 1888, and removed to quarantine. The case is one of mixed leprosy. A detailed account of the case may be found in the *Medical Record* of September 15, 1888. The bacillus lepræ were demonstrated a number of times.”

The statement contained in the newspaper clipping you inclose referring to Brennan as the “only leper in the Mississippi Valley” is obviously erroneous, as it is well-known to public health officials that cases of this disease are to be found at either extremity of the valley, both indigenous and imported.

Very respectfully yours,

GEO. HOMAN,
Secretary.

ST. LOUIS, *January 30, 1890.*

DEAR SIR: In reply to your note of 22d instant, making further inquiry concerning the leper, Brennan, and more particularly in regard to the legal proceedings in the case, I beg to say I am informed by the health commissioner that a writ of habeas corpus was sued out commanding him to produce the body of said Brennan in the circuit court. This was complied with, but the court not being ready to try the case the patient was remanded to the custody of the health commissioner, plaintiff's attorney stating that a day would be asked, to be fixed by the court, for the trial of the case; but up to this date no time has been asked for nor notification given the defense of the setting of the case. It is supposed the intention of the plaintiff's attorney was to claim that the patient was not afflicted with leprosy, but as no answer has been made to defendant's return upon the writ, it can not be definitely said what answer was contemplated.

The matter stands thus, awaiting any further action plaintiff may choose to take.

Very respectfully yours,

GEO. HOMAN,
Secretary.

Reports of States, and Yearly and Monthly Reports of Cities.

DELAWARE—*Wilmington.*—Month of February, 1890. Total deaths, 158, including enteric fever, 7; scarlet fever, 3; and measles, 2.

There were 24 deaths from pneumonia, 23 from phthisis pulmonalis, and 5 from influenza.

GEORGIA—*Savannah*.—Month of December, 1889. Population, 57,000. Total deaths, 96, including croup, 1; diphtheria, 1; and enteric fever, 2.

IOWA.—The *Monthly Bulletin* for January, 1890, says:

Since the last issue of the *Bulletin* the following diseases have been reported:

Diphtheria.—Union township, Harrison County; Sibley, Dyersville, Traer, Toledo, Sheldon, Leroy, LaPorte City, Washington township, Harrison County; Correctionville, Rockwell, Audubon, Dillon, Menlo, Silver City, Agency.

Scarlet fever.—Sibley, Portsmouth, and Cass township, Harrison County; Bayard, Bailey, Manson.

Typhoid fever.—Bailey (several cases).

Measles.—Epidemic in Elkhart township, Polk County.

On the 5th of December last a large number of immigrants arrived at New York on the steamer *Westernland*, on which were several cases of typhus fever. The immigrants were at once landed and scattered in all directions, the destination of some being Vinton, in Benton County, Iowa. Local boards in that vicinity should be on the alert for the disease.

MONTHLY MORTUARY REPORTS.—*Keokuk*, December.—Consumption, 2; pneumonia, 1; membranous croup, 1. Total deaths, 16. Population, 13,151. Death rate to population, 1.00.

Davenport, December.—Diphtheria, 10; membranous croup, 2; typhoid fever, 1; consumption, 1; pneumonia, 1. Total deaths, 30. Population, 33,715. Death rate, 0.89.

Dubuque, December.—Diphtheria, 1; membranous croup, 1; consumption, 3; pneumonia, 4. Total deaths, 35. Population, 35,000. Death rate, 0.82.

Des Moines.—No report.

MICHIGAN.—Week ended January 25, 1890. Reports to the State board of health, Lansing, from 46 observers, indicate that scarlet fever, membranous croup, pleuritis, puerperal fever, and cerebro-spinal meningitis increased, and whooping-cough, diphtheria, enteric fever, inflammation of brain, dysentery, and typho-malarial fever decreased in area of prevalence.

Diphtheria was reported present during the week ended January 15, and since, at 19 places, and scarlet fever at 15 places. Enteric fever decreased by 53 per cent., and was reported at 9 places, and measles at 9 places.

NEW YORK—*Binghamton*.—Year ending December 31, 1889. Population, 30,000. Total deaths, 521, including enteric fever, 32; scarlet fever, 1; measles, 1; whooping-cough, 4; and diphtheria and croup, 6.

NORTH CAROLINA.—Reports to the State board of health for the month of December, 1889, from 21 cities and towns having an aggregate population of 123,180, show a total of 144 deaths, including enteric fever, 2; whooping-cough, 1; pneumonia, 11; and phthisis pulmonalis, 24.

FOREIGN.

(Reports received through the Department of State and other channels.)

GREAT BRITAIN—*England and Wales.*—The deaths registered in 28 great towns of England and Wales during the week ended January 18 corresponded to an annual rate of 27.0 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,555,406. The lowest rate was recorded in Oldham, viz, 14.9, and the highest in London, viz, 32.1 a thousand. Diphtheria caused 2 deaths in Norwich, 3 in Liverpool, 3 in Manchester, and 2 in Leeds.

London.—Two thousand seven hundred and twenty deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 24; scarlet fever, 22; diphtheria, 22; whooping-cough, 104; enteric fever, 14; and diarrhœa and dysentery, 6. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 32.1 a thousand. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 1,010 deaths, and exceeded the corrected average by 464. In greater London 3,340 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 30.2 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" the deaths included measles, 15; diphtheria, 3; whooping-cough, 22; scarlet fever, 3.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate, represented by the deaths registered during the week ended January 18, in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland, was 39.2 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Dundalk, viz, 8.07, and the highest in Dublin, viz, 46.5 a thousand. In Dublin and suburbs 325 deaths were registered, including measles, 2; diphtheria, 2; enteric fever, 6; whooping-cough, 5; diarrhœa, 2; and influenza, 13.

Scotland.—The deaths registered in eight principal towns during the week ended January 18 corresponded to an annual rate of 27.2 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,314,274. The lowest mortality was recorded in Leith, viz, 14.6, and the highest in Edinburgh, viz, 34.1 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 705, including measles, 34; scarlet fever, 6; diphtheria, 6; whooping-cough, 30; fever, 2; and diarrhœa, 8.

Glasgow.—During the week ended January 18, 1890, bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy caused 74 deaths.

Edinburgh.—During the period from December 1 to 28, inclusive, there were 145 deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs.

Malta and Gozo.—The deaths registered during the first half of December, 1889, numbered 183, including enteric fever, 1; and dysentery, 1.

CANADA—*Kingston*.—January 24, 1890. Influenza is prevalent in the city. But few families have escaped it. It is considered to have been the prime cause of the increased death rate.

FRANCE—*Paris*.—The 2,065 deaths registered during the week ended January 11, 1890, included 349 from consumption, 363 from pneumonia, and 392 from other pulmonary diseases.

GERMANY—*Mayence*.—The United States consul, under date of January 20, 1890, states that of the 69 deaths registered during the week ended January 11, 24 were from acute diseases of the respiratory organs. The excessive death rate was brought about largely by the influenza either directly producing death, which was seldom, or complicating other disorders. Twelve of the deaths were from pulmonary consumption. All the towns in the vicinity show a high death rate for the first half of January. The influenza is now rapidly disappearing.

SPAIN—*Cadiz*.—January 11, 1890. Dengue still prevails in a mild form.

NETHERLANDS.—The deaths registered in the principal cities of the Netherlands, having an aggregate population of 1,154,620, during the month of January, 1890, corresponded to an annual rate of 20.8 a thousand. The lowest rate was in Leeuwarden, viz, 13.1, and the highest in Hertogenbosch, viz, 28.2. The deaths included enteric and typhus fever, 7; scarlet fever, 4; measles, 26; croup, 21; whooping-cough, 22; and diphtheria, 26.

DENMARK—*Copenhagen*.—The United States consul reports, under date of January 9, 1890, that there have been 2,133 officially reported cases of influenza up to date.

BRAZIL—*Rio de Janeiro*.—The United States consul reports 263 deaths during the week ended December 28, 1889, including scarlet fever, 7; small-pox, 19; enteric fever, 4; and typhus fever, 8. Weather hot, thermometer generally standing about 90° in the shade. Rains are frequent and are said to promote the health of the city. There is no increase in the number of cases of yellow fever.

CUBA—*Havana*.—One death from yellow fever and 1 from small-pox were registered during the week ended January 23, 1890.

BRITISH GUIANA—*Georgetown, Demerara*.—Week ended January 7, 1890. There were no cases of contagious disease. Number of deaths never reported.

Cholera in Asia.

The United States consul at Beirut, in his dispatch of December 11, 1889, says:

Reverting to my dispatch of the 30th ultimo upon the subject of "cholera in Mosoul," adjacent to but not within the precinct of the

Beirut consular district, I have now the honor to inform the Department that from later semi-official information it would appear that the disease, which at one time demanded over thirty victims a day, has now lost its acute character, the number of daily cases proving fatal being now reduced to four or five.

Fire and disinfectants were the two most powerful agents employed where this much dreaded foe made its appearance, and Bagdad and its environs seem to have been entirely freed from its deadly grasp, only one case at Keainzieh having lately been chronicled. The strict surveillance kept by the sanitary cordons surrounding the infected districts and the presence of the adjacent staff of competent physicians has contributed no little to thus far restrict the further spread of the cholera, and strengthen the hope already expressed that its invasion of Syria may be averted.

Some of the nomadic tribes of Mesopotamia and Kurdistan resort to a very simple but efficient expedient to prevent contagion, by keeping guard around their camps and warning off individuals suspected of hailing from infected localities, threatening to shoot them down if they approached their dwellings.

Supposed cholera in Persia.

[Translated for this Bureau from *Der Deutsche Correspondent*, Baltimore, Md., January 28, 1890.]

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA, *January 27*.—Reports from Astrabad show that in the province of Khorassan a disease of the bowels is raging, which has caused frightful mortality. Three thousand deaths have already been reported. At Nur, in Meshed, three hundred persons are dying, on the average, daily. The character of the plague is not exactly known on account of the want of efficient physicians. Cholera having raged last fall in western Persia, and thousands of persons having fled from there to the east of the Empire, in order to escape the disease, it is supposed that the plague in Khorassan is cholera, and that the same has been brought in by the refugees.

Prevention of tuberculosis.

[Translated for this Bureau from the *Journal d'Hygiene*, Paris, France, January 16, 1889.]

At the fifteenth reunion of the German Congress of Strasbourg, Doctor Cornet, of Berlin, maintained that we have to provide against the transmission of the disease rather than against the tendency to contract it. It is the most terrible enemy of the human race; its victims number one-seventh of the population. In Germany alone it causes 150,000 deaths a year. The contagion is less from air exhaled from the lungs, as was formerly believed, than from expectorations, which on drying communicate to the dust an infinity of germs. Tuberculous persons are for this reason a menace not only to those around them, but to themselves, since they introduce into their respiratory channels other bacilli which infect the yet healthy portion of the lungs. They should be prohibited spitting on the ground or into a handkerchief, but should use special receptacles filled with water. Spittoons filled not with sand or sawdust, but water, should be placed in all public resorts.

A circular has been issued by the Minister of the Interior (Germany), containing some regulations applicable to prisons :

1. It is prohibited to expectorate on the ground or into a handkerchief. Spittoons filled with water must be used.

2. Each cell vacated by a prisoner attacked by cough must be completely cleansed and disinfected if tuberculosis is reported or even suspected.

3. Special apparatus for disinfection shall be provided.

4. Prisoners ascertained to be affected with tuberculosis, but still able to work, should be as far as possible separated from the others.

MORTALITY TABLE—FOREIGN CITIES.

Cities.	Week ended.	Estimated population.	Total deaths from all causes.	Deaths from—									
				Cholera.	Yellow fever.	Small-pox.	Typhus fever.	Enteric fever.	Scarlet fever.	Diphtheria.	Measles.	Whooping-cough.	
London.....	Jan. 11.....	5,758,500	3,350					11	19	31			
Paris.....	Jan. 11.....	2,260,945	2,065			1		17	3	23	10	13	
Glasgow.....	Jan. 18.....	545,678	277						1				
Warsaw.....	Jan. 4.....	445,770	285			17			3	7			
Calcutta.....	Nov. 30.....	433,219	263	27							1		
Calcutta.....	Dec. 7.....	433,219	294	22		3							
Calcutta.....	Dec. 14.....	433,219	316	38							1		
Rome.....	Sept. 28.....	409,692	163										
Rome.....	Oct. 5.....	409,692	171					6		5			
Rome.....	Oct. 12.....	409,692	165					5	1	4			
Rome.....	Oct. 19.....	409,692	162					3		2			
Rome.....	Oct. 26.....	409,692	163					6		1			
Rome.....	Nov. 2.....	409,692	168			2		9		5			
Rome.....	Nov. 9.....	409,692	158			1		2		5			
Copenhagen.....	Jan. 4.....	307,000	170						1	2	8		
Munich.....	Dec. 28.....	281,000	158					1		15			
Munich.....	Jan. 4.....	298,000	241							12			
Munich.....	Jan. 11.....	298,000	272					1		15			
Edinburgh.....	Dec. 7.....	266,900	135					1	1	1	7	8	
Edinburgh.....	Dec. 14.....	266,900	118				1		1	3	8		
Edinburgh.....	Dec. 21.....	266,900	134					1		2	14	2	
Palermo.....	Jan. 11.....	250,000	98						2	1			
Bristol.....	Jan. 11.....	232,248	106							1			
Genoa.....	Jan. 11.....	180,351	171				3			1			
Trieste.....	Jan. 11.....	158,054	155					1		1			
Stuttgart.....	Jan. 18.....	125,510	110						1	5			
Pernambuco.....	Dec. 17.....	120,000	68			1		1	1				
Pernambuco.....	Dec. 24.....	120,000	83			1		1	1				
Pernambuco.....	Dec. 31.....	120,000	65						1	2			
Havre.....	Jan. 4.....	112,074	86					2		1			
Havre.....	Jan. 11.....	112,074	109										
Catania.....	Jan. 6.....	109,000	41					1					
Leith.....	Dec. 7.....	76,400	39						8	1			
Leith.....	Dec. 14.....	76,400	24						3	2			
Leith.....	Dec. 21.....	76,400	36						8				
Leith.....	Dec. 28.....	76,400	22						3				
Mayence.....	Jan. 4.....	65,802	28							1			
Mayence.....	Jan. 11.....	65,802	69				1			2			
Cadiz.....	Jan. 11.....	57,157	63										
Gibraltar.....	Jan. 5.....	23,681	12							1			
Kingston, Can.....	Jan. 24.....	18,284	9										
Laguayra.....	Jan. 18.....	7,428	5										
St. Thomas.....	Dec. 20.....	13,500	7										
St. Thomas.....	Dec. 27.....	13,500	11										
St. Thomas.....	Jan. 3.....	13,500	18								1		
St. Thomas.....	Jan. 10.....	13,500	15										

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

Supervising Surgeon-General, U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.